



# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294

(323) 881-2401

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN  
FIRE CHIEF  
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

April 19, 2005

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE PURCHASE ORDER TO PRATT &  
WHITNEY FOR REPAIR AND OVERHAUL OF A TURBINE ENGINE  
AND COMBINING GEARBOX FOR A BELL 412 HELICOPTER  
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF  
THE CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT:**

1. Authorize and instruct the Purchasing Agent of the Internal Services Department to issue a purchase order for \$446,296.04 to Pratt & Whitney for parts and services rendered in the repair and overhaul of the turbine engine and combining gearbox for a Bell 412 helicopter.

**PURPOSE /JUSTIFICATION OF THE RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The award of purchase orders in excess of \$100,000.00 for a service to an original equipment manufacturer by the County's Purchasing Agent requires approval of your Honorable Board. This recommended action is to approve the service, which will be conducted by Pratt & Whitney, to repair and overhaul the turbine engine and combining gearbox for one of our Bell 412 Helicopters. This integrated power/transmission unit is called a "twin pac."

**SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:**

AGOURA HILLS  
ARTESIA  
AZUSA  
BALDWIN PARK  
BELL  
BELL GARDENS  
BELLFLOWER

BRADBURY  
CALABASAS  
CARSON  
CERRITOS  
CLAREMONT  
COMMERCE  
COVINA

CUDAHY  
DIAMOND BAR  
DUARTE  
EL MONTE  
GARDENA  
GLENDDORA  
HAWAIIAN GARDENS

HAWTHORNE  
HIDDEN HILLS  
HUNTINGTON PARK  
INDUSTRY  
INGLEWOOD  
IRWINDALE  
LA CANADA-FLINTRIDGE

LA MIRADA  
LA PUENTE  
LAKEWOOD  
LANCASTER  
LAWNDALE  
LOMITA  
LYNWOOD

MALIBU  
MAYWOOD  
NORWALK  
PALMDALE  
PALOS VERDES ESTATES  
PARAMOUNT  
PICO RIVERA

POMONA  
RANCHO PALOS VERDES  
ROLLING HILLS  
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES  
ROSEMead  
SAN DIMAS  
SANTA CLARITA

SIGNAL HILL  
SOUTH EL MONTE  
SOUTH GATE  
TEMPLE CITY  
WALNUT  
WEST HOLLYWOOD  
WESTLAKE VILLAGE  
WHITTIER

The Bell 412 twin-pac unit is currently due for repair and overhaul as mandated in the Pratt & Whitney maintenance manual. The purchase order estimate consists of repairing two power sections and a combining gearbox. The number one power section is presently due for overhaul and the number two power section along with the combining gearbox is due for repair. The cost of this repair and overhaul will be more economically feasible than purchasing a new Twin-Pac at \$1.3 million.

#### Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Approval of the recommended action is consistent with the County's Strategic Plan Goal #1, Service Excellence, as well as Strategic Plan Goal #4, Fiscal Responsibility.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

Funding for this purchase order is available in the 2004-05 Services and Supplies Budget for the North Regional Operations Bureau, Air & Wildland Division, Air Operations Section.

#### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

Pratt & Whitney is the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) of the twin-pacs in our four Bell 412 helicopters. Each Twin-Pac consists of two jet engines and a combining gearbox. It is a single integrated unit that is shipped to the manufacturer for inspection and cost estimate. Once the Fire Department agrees to have the work done, a purchase order is obtained from the Internal Services Department (ISD), and the overhaul and/or repairs are completed.

On December 13, 2004, the Bell 412 twin-pac was sent to Pratt & Whitney to provide the Fire Department with an engine teardown evaluation and a cost quotation for the engine overhaul. The next step would be to have the actual repair and overhaul completed. Since this engine teardown evaluation has already been done, it would be more cost-effective to remain with the existing vendor. Otherwise, Pratt & Whitney will have to package all torn-down parts, ship them back to the Fire Department, and we would have to start the process over with another Pratt & Whitney authorized repair facility.

If Pratt & Whitney does the actual work, they would include the inspection costs in the repair costs. However, if the repair work is not done by Pratt & Whitney, they would only be paid for the inspection work that has already been done.

#### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

The Fire Department is in the process of negotiating a contract agreement with Pratt & Whitney which is anticipated to be completed by December 2005.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
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**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICE (OR PROJECTS)**

Approval of the recommended action will enable the Department to continue our efforts to provide fire protection and life safety services to the residents of Los Angeles County.

**CONCLUSION**

Upon approval by the Board of Supervisors, please return adopted copies of this letter to:

1. Los Angeles County Consolidated Fire Protection District  
Materials Management Division  
5801 South Eastern Avenue, Suite 100  
Commerce, CA 90040  
Attention: James Ealey, Chief, Materials Management Division
2. Internal Services Department  
Purchasing Division  
1100 North Eastern Avenue, Room 102  
Los Angeles, CA 90063  
Attention: Joe Sandoval, Division Manager

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Michael Freeman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

PMF:mr

- c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Auditor-Controller  
Internal Services Department  
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors